

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 076967

FOR ASST SECY SISCO

FOL TEL SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO KUWAIT JIDDA LONDON FROM
ABU DHABI 23 APR 73 REPEATED:

QUOTE ABU DHABI 511

EO 11652: ADS (DECLASSIFY MAY 1975)

TAGS: OV, IP, TC, US (OTAIBA, MANA BIN SAEED)

SUBJ: VISIT OF ABU DHABI PETROLEUM MINISTER TO US

REF: A. STATE 048734 B. ABU DHABI 356

SUMMARY: AD MINPET AND INDUSTRY OTAIBA AND PARTY THREE PLANNING
TEN DAY TRIP TO US AND CANADA MID- MAY PRINCIPALLY TO DISCUSS
ENERGY CRISIS AS IT RELATES TO MAJOR PRODUCING COUNTRY LIKE
AD. STOPS WILL INCLUDE NY, WASH, WHERE MIN PLANS GIVE PRESS
CONF, BARTLESVILLE, OKLAHOMA, LOS ANGELES, AND MONTREAL
OTAIBA LOOKING FORWARD CHANCE MEET FOR TWO DAYS WITH DEPT AND
OTHER USG OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH FORMULATING US ENERGY POLICY
AND RESPONSIBLE FOR FOLLOWING POL/ ECON SITUATION IN GULF.
SINCE MINISTER HAS EXPRESSED WISH TO BE RECEIVED BY USG AT CABINET
RANK LEVEL, EMB RECOMMENDS DEPT MAKE EFFORT TO ARRANGE COURTESY
CALLS EITHER ON SECRETARY INTERIOR OR SECRETARY COMMERCE AS WELL
AS UNDER SEC RUSH OR CASEY WITH SUBSTANTIVE TALKS TO BE AT
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ASST SEC OR LOWER LEVEL. MINOR PROBLEM IN COORDINATING TRIP
ARRANGEMENTS IS ABSORPTION LODGING COSTS FOR PARTY DURING

WASH VISIT. SINCE US COMPANIES INVOLVED HAVE ADVISED THEY

UNABLE RPT UNABLE PAY FOR WASH STOP, WOULD HOPE DEPT CAN FIND WAY COVER THIS EXPENSE TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO GUESTS.

ACTION REQUIRED: REQUEST DEPT FOLLOW THROUGH WITH ARRANGEMENTS DETAILED PARA 9.

1. CHARGE ACCOMPANIED BY PHILLIPS MANAGER COOPER AND FNCB MANAGER ELLIS CALLED ON ABU DHABI MINPET AND INDUSTRY OTAIBA APRIL 16, PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR LONDON FOR TALKS RE IMPLEMENTATION OF PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT, TO COORDINATE MINISTER'S VISIT MID- MAY TO US. EMB HAD SUGGESTED JOINT MEETING TO DISCUSS SCHEDULE AND PROGRAM IN ORDER TO AVOID CONFLICTING INDEPENDENT ARRANGEMENTS.

2. AS REPORTED REFTEL B, IDEA OF MINISTER'S VISIT TO US FIRST PROPOSED BY PHILLIPS SO MIN COULD ATTEND COMPANY BOARD MEETING AT BARTLESVILLE. TRAVEL FOR GROUP BEING PAID BY PHILLIPS. OTAIBA SUBSEQUENTLY DECIDED BROADEN SCOPE OF TRIP TO INCLUDE VISITS NEW

YORK AND WASHINGTON FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH OIL COMPANY EXECS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON ENERGY CRISIS. MIN WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY DEPUTY MIN ABDULLA ISMAIL, PRIVATE SEC AHMAD MIRZA AND PHILLIPS LOCAL REP, ISAM KABRA. (FYI- ALL KABRA'S EXPENSES TO BE PAID BY PHILLIPS.)

3. AT MEETING OTAIBA REGRETTED THAT HE FORCED LIMIT HIS VISIT TO US (AND CANADA) TO APPROX 8-10 DAYS. FOLLOWING SCHEDULE AGREED UPON: A. OTAIBA PLANNING DEPART LONDON 1100 MAY 13 VIA PAA 001 ETA NY 1235. IN NY HE WILL BE GUEST OF FNCB FOR TALKS MAY 14-15, WITH BANK OFFICERS AND OIL COMPANY EXECS. AMONG SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION WITH FNCB ARE POSSIBILITY BANK FINANCING NUMBER MINY'S INDUSTRIAL AND PET- RELATED PROJECTS AND ASSISTING MINY IN RECRUITMENT PETROLEUM MARKETING CONSULTANT. UNDERSTAND FNCB GOING ALL OUT TO MAKE VISIT SUCCESSFUL.

B. EVENING TUESDAY MAY 15 FNCB WILL ARRANGE HAVE ITS PRIVATE PLANE FLY PARTY TO WASHINGTON. REQUEST DEPT ARRANGE HAVE THEM MET UPON ARRIVAL WASHINGTON. OTAIBA LEAVES TO DEPT'S DISCRETION CHOICE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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SUITABLE FIRST CLASS HOTEL. EMB HAS DEFINITE IMPRESSION OTAIBA EXPECTS HOSTS TO FIND LODGING IN WASH.

C. MAY 16-17 RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION WITH DEPT AND OTHER OFFICIALS USG CONCERNED WITH ENERGY CRISIS. FYI: OTAIBA HAS MADE PARTICULAR POINT OF ASKING THAT HE BE RECEIVED BY APPROPRIATELY SENIOR USG OFFICIAL. (DEPUTY ISMAIL TOLD CHARGE LATER MIN WISHES CALL ON AT LEAST ONE USG OFFICIAL AT CABINET RPT CABINET LEVEL.) OTAIBA STRESSED TO CHARGE THAT WHILE UAE SMALL NATION, IT EXPECTS COURTESY AND RECEPTION FOR ITS OFFICIALS ON PAR WITH THAT GIVEN OTHER RECENT ARAB VISITORS TO WASH, NOTABLY SAUDIS. CHARGE EXPLAINED DIFFICULTY IN SCHEDULING APPOINTMENT WITH SEC ROGERS OR OTHER CABINET OFFICIAL, BUT SAID EMB WOULD RECOMMEND THAT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, MINPET BE RECEIVED, FOR COURTESY CALL, AT CABINET LEVEL, POSSIBLY BY SEC INTERIOR OR SEC COMMERCE. WHILE

WE SEE NO REASON FOR OTAIBA SEE SECRETARY, BELIEVE HE WOULD BE OFFENDED IF HE COULD NOT CALL ALSO ON UNDER SEC RUSH OR UNDER SEC CASEY. RECOMMEND SUBSTANTIVE TALKS BE HELD AT ASST SEC OR LOWER LEVEL. AS PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED (REFTELS), WE BELIEVE SOCIAL EVENT IN MIN' S HONOR HOSTED BY SISCO OR ONE OF DEPUTIES WOULD BE IN ORDER.

D. OTAIBA WILL BE FLOWN BARTLESVILLE, OKLAHOMA EVENING MAY 17 VIA PHILLIPS PRIVATE PLANE. BOARD MTG EXPECTED TAKE PLACE 18 TH THEN OTAIBA WISHES MAKE WEEKEND VISIT TO LOS ANGELES FOR SIGHT-SEEING.

E. OTAIBA AND PARTY WILL FLY TO MONTREAL, CANADE MAY 21 REPORTEDLY TO INVESTIGATE CANADIAN INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION SURPLUS ABU DHABI NATURAL GAS DEPOSITS.

F. PHILLIPS HAS ADVISED THAT IT UNABLE RPT UNABLE IN VIEW HEAVY EXPENSE INVOLVED IN FOOTING MAJOR PART TRIP COSTS TO ABSORB STOP- OVER EXPENSES OF OTAIBA PARTY IN WASH. FNCB ALSO CANNOT FUND COST OF PARTY' S VISIT TO WASH. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, HOPE DEPT CAN FIND SOME WAY ABSORB HOTEL BILL FOR NIGHTS MAY 16-17.

4. OTAIBA EXTREMELY PLEASED THAT DEPT PREPARED WELCOME HIM FOR TALKS CONCERNED WITH ENERGY CRISIS. IN ADDITION HIS FOCUS ON ENERGY MATTERS, OTAIBA MENTIONED THAT SHAIKH ZAYID WISHES HIM MEET DURING VISIT WITH RANKING RPT RANKING USG OFFICIALS WHO DISCUSS CERTAIN POLITICAL MATTERS OF CURRENT CONCERN TO UAE. CONFIDENTIAL

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OTAIBA MENTIONED THIS REGARD SAUDI- ABU DHABI BORDER DISPUTE AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF UAE RELATIONS WITH US.

5. DURING US VISIT, OTAIBA PLANS GIVE PRESS CONFERENCE IREFERABLY IN WASH AFTERNOON OF MAY 17. HE PREFERS MEET PRESS IN WASH TO GAIN MAXIMUM IMPACT AND EXPOSURE, AND TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE CONTACTS WITH USG OFFICIALS. WE HAVE CONTACTED MFA AND SUGGESTED UAE PERM REP TO UN, HUMAIDAN, APPROPRIATELY SHOULD ARRANGE PRESS CONF. MFA NOW COORDINATING WITH MINPET TO SEE HOW HUMAIDAN MIGHT BACK- STOP VISIT. MFA AGREES THAT OTAIBA, ALTHOUGH ONLY MIN OF AD, CARRIES MORE WEIGHT THAN MOST FEDERAL MINISTERS BECAUSE HIS NINISTRY RESPONSIBLE FOR AD' S INCOME. HIS VISIT THEREFORE, CONSIDERED VERY IMPORTANT BY MFA.

6. REQUEST SUBSTANTIVE MEETINGS BE SCHEDULED FOR TAIBA WITH ASST SEC SISCO OR ONE OF HIS DEPUTIES, CONCERNED COUNTRY DIRECTORS, AND AKINS OF E/ FSE, BENNSLEY EB/ IRF/ FE. IN ADDITION SUGGEST THAT DEPT CONSIDER ARRANGING COURTESY SUBSTANTIVE CALLS BY OTAIBA ON FOLLOWING:

- A. MR. SIMON, CHAIRMAN PRESIDENT' S OIL POLICY COMMITTEE;
- B. PRESIDENT' S NEW ENERGY ADVISOR;
- C. HAL SAUNDERS OF KISSINGER' S STAFF;

D. AND POSSIBLY SENATOR FULBRIGHT WHO VISITED UAE IN DEC 72.

7. WHILE

EMBASSY HAS STRESSED THAT TALKS WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY AT WORKING LEVEL WITH DEPT, OTAIBA CLEARLY EXPECTS VIP TREATMENT AS OIL MINISTER OF MAJOR PRODUCER. HE IS EXTREMELY AMBITIOUS YOUNG MAN WHO BECOMES EASILY MIFFED IF HE FEELS HE NOT BEING GIVEN APPROPRIATE RECOGNITION. OTAIBA IS GREAT ADMIRER OF ABILITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF SAUDI MINPET YAMANI, BUT CLEARLY, NOT IN SAME LEAGUE. WHETHER HE RECOGNIZES THAT FACT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY; IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IS OTAIBA BELIEVES HE ENTITLED BY VIRTUE POSITION AS MINPET LEADING GULF PRODUCER TO PROTOCOL ATTENTION RELATIVE TO THAT ACCORDED BY USG TO YAMANI AND OTHER SAUDI

MINISTERS, WHO HAVE VISITED US LATELY.

8. IN COMING WEEK EMB WILL SUGGEST SUBSTANTIVE POINTS THAT MIGHT BE RAISED BY OR WITH OTAIBA. EMB HAS REQUESTED PHILLIPS AND
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FNCB HAVE WASH REPS THEIR ORGANIZATIONS CONTACT NEA/ ARP OR E/ FSE COORDINATE DETAILS. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT ADVISING IF ADDITIONAL BIO DATA NEEDED FOR OTAIBA AND DEPUTY ISMAIL, AS WE UNCERTAIN HOW MUCH INFO ABOUT THEM ON FILE.

9. IN SUMMARY, DEPT REQUESTED TAKE FOLLOWING ACTION:

- A. MEET OTAIBA UPON ARRIVAL WASH
 - B. MAKE FIRST CLASS HOTEL RESERVATION (3 ROOMS- COMFORTABLE DOUBLE AND TWO SINGLES) WASH MAY 16-17. TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT EMB RECOMMENDS USG ABSORB COSTS OF PARTY' S LODGING.
 - C. SCHEDULE APPROPRIATE COURTESY AND SUBSTANTIVE CALLS WITHIN USG.
 - D. ORGANIZE LUNCHEON OR SIMILAR SOCIAL EVENT IN OTAIBA' S HONOR TO BE HOSTED BY SENIOR OFFICER.
 - E. FURNISH POST WITH WASH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR PASSING TO MINISTER BY FIRST WEEK MAY.
- GRIFFIN UNQUOTE ROGERS

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